

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SYG, AO, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE CONCERN OVER ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS

REFS.: (A) USUN 0900; (B) USUN 1014; (C) LISBON 1782;

(D) LUANDA 333; (E) LUANDA 334

1. DEPARTMENT IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH RATHER PESSI-
MISTIC PORTUGUESE ASSESSMENT THAT SITUATION IN ANGOLA
LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. WHILE WE WISH TO BE AS
HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE, DEPARTMENT IS RELUCTANT FOR USG TO BE
PLACED IN POSITION WHERE UNSYG LOOKS TO US FOR INFORMATION
ON SITUATION OR FOR CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION RECEIVED
FROM PORTUGUESE OR OTHER SOURCES. FOR ONE THING, OUR OWN
INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IS SKETCHY. OUR READING OF
INTENTIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF CONTENDERS IN ONGOING STRUGGLE
FOR POWER IN ANGOLA IS OFTEN BASED ON THIS LIMITED INFOR-
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MATION. FOR ANOTHER, GIVING IMPRESSION WE KNOW VERY MUCH

ABOUT SITUATION WOULD TEND CONFIRM (UNFOUNDED) SUSPICION UNSYG MIGHT HAVE PICKED UP FROM PORTUGUESE OR OTHERS THAT WE ARE MEDDLING IN ANGOLA AND ARE INFLUENTIAL WITH ONE OF MAJOR CONTENDERS. WE ARE CONCERNED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO IN MOZAMBIQUE HAS INDICATED BELIEF IN U.S. INVOLVEMENT. AS USUN AWARE, CRESPO WAS RECENTLY NAMED TO GOP REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND IS ONE OF MORE MODERATE MEMBERS OF THAT BODY.

2. GOP HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN SITUATION AND, ALTHOUGH GOP IS NEITHER ABLE NOR PERHAPS INCLINED TO CONCENTRATE MUCH ATTENTION ON ANGOLA, IT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS CONCERN AND ITS DETERMINATION (SO FAR, AT LEAST) TO COMPLETE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS AS PEACEFULLY AS IT CAN. (YOU MAY USE LISBON 1782 EXCEPT FOR LAST PARA.) SINCE WE SHARE PORTUGUESE OBJECTIVE OF PEACEFUL DECOLONIZATION, WE WOULD NOT WANT BE IN POSITION TO BE CHARGED AT SOME LATER DATE WITH OBSTRUCTING THIS PROCESS OR OF OTHERWISE INTERFERING WITH IT.

3. WITH ABOVE CAVEATS, YOU MAY CONVEY TO SYG GIST OF INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTELS. OUR BEST JUDGMENT AT THIS POINT IS THAT MARCH 28 AGREEMENT BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND ALL THREE LIBERATION GROUPS WILL HOLD ONLY AS LONG AS FNLA AND MPLA CONSIDER IT IN THEIR INTEREST NOT TO RESPOND TO INEVITABLE "PROVOCATIONS" BY EACH OTHER. HOWEVER, THE CHANCES OF AVOIDING FURTHER CLASHES APPEAR DIM, AND THIS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO MAJOR OUTBREAK BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS LASTING UNTIL ONE OR THE OTHER "WINS." KEY QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS EXTENT TO WHICH GOP WOULD BE INCLINED OR ABLE TO EMPLOY ITS OWN FORCES IN EFFORT MAINTAIN AT LEAST TENUOUS PEACE UNTIL INDEPENDENCE. WE CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION, NOR DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT GOP MAY BE CONTEMPLATING SEEKING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, EITHER FROM OAU OR UN, BEYOND INDICATION IN USUN 0900 THAT GOP WOULD FAVOR UN MISSION TO LOOK INTO SITUATION. KISSINGER

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